Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
SSM-05 TRSE-00 IO-14 /084 W
----------052070 091528Z /45
O R 091435Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7669
USDEL SEC JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5886

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, IS, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: REACTION TO U.S. STATEMENTS ON PLO

1. ALTHOUGH ISRAEL HAS REFRAINED FROM AN OFFICIAL PUBLIC REACTION, TODAY'S PRESS USES SUCH WORDS AS "GLOOM", "DISMAY", AND "CONSTERNATION" IN REPORTING HOW THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS IN PLAINS AND THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON PLO RECOGNITION HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN ISRAEL. STORIES SPEAK OF ISRAEL "BRACING" ITSELF FOR THE ENCOUNTER WITH VANCE, ALONG WITH A SUDDEN DETERIORATION IN THE CLIMATE FOR THE TALKS AS OFFICIALS REALIZE THAT DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURES, AS EXPECTED (AND HOPED FOR) BY THE GOI, WILL BE SUBORIDNATED TO SUBSTANTIVE TALKS.
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2. EVEN BEFORE WORD REACHED HERE OF THE PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSION OF ENCOURAGEMENT THAT THE PLO MIGHT ACCEPT RESOLUTION 242, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TOLD AN ISRAEL BOND MEETING IN JERUSALEM YESTERDAY THAT THE U.S. IS COMMITTED NOT TO SUPPORT PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA WITHOUT ISRAELI CONCURRENCE. REFERRING TO THIS RIGHT OF

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"VETO," BEGIN SAID, "WE ARE USING THAT RIGHT AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO USE IT." THE PRESS HAS BEEN QUICK TO ECHO THIS POSITION. COMMENTATORS HAVE ALSO POINTED TO THE U.S./ISRAELI UNDERSTANDING THAT THE U.S. WILL OPPOSE ALTERING 242 AND 338 "IN WAYS WHICH ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSE."

3. WRITING IN MAARIV, HARIF ASSERTS THAT A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE PLO COULD WELL AFFECT U.S. CREDIBILITY AND THAT WASHINGTON'S ACCEPTANCE OF A CHANGE IN 242 "WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO THE VIOLATION OF AN INTERNTIONAL OBLIGATION WHICH THE U.S. HAS MADE TO ISRAEL WITH THE APPROVAL OF CONGRESS." MAARIV'S EDITORIAL ADDS: "IF THE U.S.ADMINISTRATION AGREES TO AMEND ITS OWN TERMS FOR CONTACT WITH THE PLO AND THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF RESOLUTION 242. IT WILL BE GIVING ISRAEL A MOST CONVINCING REASON TO OBJECT TO ANY CONCESSION BOUND WITH ANY AMERICAN COMMITMENT, GUARANTEE, OR PROMISE."

4. THE PRESS IS UNANIMOUS IN MAINTAINING THAT PLO ACCEPTANCE OF 242 WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO SATISFY ISRAEL. DAVAR'S EDITORIAL STRESSES THAT "PLO ACCEPTANCE OF 242 AND 338 IS NO RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, AND NO FORMULATION OF TRICKS CAN CHANGE THAT FACT. AS LONG AS THE PALESTINIAN COVENANT IS IN
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FORCE...ANY TALK OF 'RECOGNITION' IS A TRAGIC POLITICAL FARCE. AN ISRAELI ELEMENT CAN HARDLY BE FOUND WHO WILL TAKE A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THINGS... THE PLO CAN AFFORD TO ACCEPT THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTIONS IF THEY ARE AMENDED IN ITS FAVOR. SUCH 'CONCESSION' MAY BE ADEQUATE IN U.S. EYES; ISRAEL THINKS OTHERWISE."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO U.S. STATEMENTS ON PLO
TAGS: PBOR, OVIP, SOPN, IS, US, PLO, (VANCE, CYRUS)
To: JERUSALEM STATE
Type: TE
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